


REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 5-11 have been amended, new claims 15-28 have been added and claims 3, 4 and 12-14 have been cancelled. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 5-11 and 15-28 will be pending in the application. Multiple claim dependencies have been removed from the amended claims.

The subject application is the United States national stage application based on International Application No. PCT/GB 99/04353. The amended claims substantially correspond to the claims upon which the International Preliminary Examination Report prepared by the European Patent Office in International Application No. PCT/GB 99/04353 is based. Applicants wish to point out that these claims were found to satisfy the requirements of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability in the International Preliminary Examination Report.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by this amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

  
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (amended) A [capstock] polymer composition suitable for use as a capstock composition comprising a blend of:

a melt extrudable acrylic polymer component which comprises more than 50% by weight, based on the weight of the acrylic polymer component, of a high molecular weight acrylic polymer having a molecular weight in the range of from about 150,000 to about 350,000, on a number average basis, and up to 50% by weight, based on the weight of the acrylic polymer component, of a low molecular weight acrylic polymer having a molecular weight of from about 10,000 to about 100,000, on a number average basis;

from 10% to 50% by weight of the composition of a halogen donor component;

an effective amount of a halogen volatilisation agent; and

a char-inducing component which induces formation of a char upon application of flame to the composition.

2. (amended) A [capstock] polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the acrylic polymer component [comprises] ranges from 40% to 75% by weight of the composition.

Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled.

5. (amended) A [capstock] polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, further comprising a pigment for imparting colour to the [material] composition.

6. (amended) A [capstock] polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the halogen donor component comprises a halogen-containing polymer which has a K value of from about 50 to about 65.

7. (amended) A [capstock] polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein the halogen donor component comprises polyvinyl chloride.

8. (amended) A [capstock] polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein the char-inducing component comprises a blend of vitreous materials which exhibits a broad melting range of from about 350°C up to about 800°C and which devitrifies at temperatures in the range of from about 800°C to about 900°C.

9. (amended) A [capstock] polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein the char-inducing component comprises zinc borate, zinc stannate, or a mixture thereof.

10. (amended) A [capstock] polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1 to 9] claim 1, wherein the amount of the char-inducing component ranges from about 2% by weight up to about 15% by weight of the composition.

11. (amended) A [capstock] polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1, comprising a blend of:

from 40% to 75% by weight of the composition of [a] the melt extrudable acrylic polymer component;

from 10% to 30% by weight of the composition of a polyvinyl chloride which has a K value of from about 50 to about 65 as [a] the halogen donor component;

from 3% to 8% by weight of the composition of sodium antimonate or antimony trioxide as [a] the halogen volatilisation agent; and

from 2% to 15% by weight of the composition of at least one zinc salt selected from zinc stannate and zinc borate as [a] the char-inducing component.

Claims 12-14 have been canceled.

New claims 15-28 have been added.